

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 422

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Jake Bateman, 2005 graduate of Dobyns-Bennett High School.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in the classroom, as well as in the athletic arena; and

WHEREAS, Jake Bateman is one such exceptional member of the 2005 graduating class at Dobyns-Bennett High School who is now continuing to fulfill his outstanding potential at The Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, Mr. Bateman achieved outstanding academic success and joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country; and

WHEREAS, in his remarkable high school career, Mr. Bennett earned an exemplary 4.357 grade point average while participating in numerous extracurricular activities, including classical piano, which he studied for twelve years; the golf team, with which he won several conference titles and tournaments and by whom he was voted "Mr. Indian" in 2001; Celebration Church Youth Group; service projects at the local soup kitchen, Salvation Army, and nursing home; Communion preparation; Spanish Club; Key Club; and Athletes in Action; and

WHEREAS, Jake Bennett has also received much acclaim for his superior gymnastic talent; he was the Tennessee State Champion from 2001 to 2005, the Region 8 All-Around Champion 2003-2004; Tennessee State Gymnast of the Year 2003-2004; and Optional Gymnast of the Year 2002-2004; among many other honors; and

WHEREAS, since beginning his studies at Ohio State, Mr. Bennett has continued his athletic successes; among several other awards, he was voted "Big-Ten Freshman of the Year" by Big-Ten gymnastics coaches; and

WHEREAS, a Wendy's High School Heisman Award recipient, Jake was an event finalist at the 2007 NCAA Gymnastics Championships; he and his teammates comprise the first Ohio State Squad to win the Big 10 Championship three consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett's display of aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for his continued success at The Ohio State University, from which he received a full scholarship and admission to the Honors and Scholars Program for the Health Sciences; he is majoring in Biology and intends to attend dental school; and

WHEREAS, Jake Bennett's noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for his parents, Rick and Sandy Bateman, his brother, Will, his school, and his community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bateman's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Jake Bateman on his impressive academic and athletic achievements in high school and college, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.